

IN THE CLAIMS

1-8 (canceled)

9. (currently amended) A digital photo processing apparatus comprising:

an input device for receiving digitized image data;

an image processor for processing said image data to generate printing data;

a digital printer for making photo prints from said printing data; and

a data recorder for recording said printing data used by said digital printer on a removable recording medium to be distributed to a customer, said data recorder including:

a drive for said removable recording medium;

a capacity checker for detecting an available capacity of said removable recording medium set to said drive; and

a resolution converter operable to lower a resolution of the printing data to a proper resolution where image quality of prints is not lowered in relationship to corresponding to a resolution of said digital printer when said printing data has a volume exceeding said available capacity detected by said capacity checker.

10. (currently amended) A digital photo processing apparatus as defined in claim 9, wherein said data recorder includes a data compressor for compressing said printing data having the resolution lowered converted.

11. (previously presented) A digital photoprocessing apparatus as defined in claim 10, wherein said data compressor is operable with a compression ratio automatically set from a relationship between a volume of said printing data to be compressed and the available capacity of said removable recording medium.

12. (previously presented) A digital photo processing apparatus as defined in claim 9, further comprising an attribute data processor for generating order attribute data such as a

customer name and a customer address to be recorded along with said printing data on said removable recording medium.

13. (currently amended) In a digital photo processing apparatus having an input device for receiving digitized image data, an image processor for processing said image data to generate printing data, and a digital printer for making photo prints from said printing data, and a drive for recording said printing data on removable recording medium, a method of recording said printing data used by said digital printer on the removable recording medium, comprising the steps of:

checking an available writing capacity of said recording medium set to said input device;

comparing said available writing capacity detected and a volume of said printing data to be recorded; and

converting a resolution of said printing data without substantially lowering image quality when said printing data is not recordable on said recording medium;

checking whether the resolution of the printing data may be converted to a proper resolution where image quality of prints is not lowered in relationship to a lowering a resolution of the printing data to a proper resolution corresponding to a resolution of said digital printer when said printing data has a volume exceeding said available writing capacity detected by said capacity checker; and

lowering the resolution of the printing data to the proper resolution when the resolution conversion to the proper resolution is possible.

14. (currently amended) A method as defined in claim 13, further comprising a step of compressing said printing data with a compression ratio for enabling recording of said printing data on said recording medium, when said printing data remains not recordable on said recording medium after the resolution is lowered converted.

15. (previously presented) A method as defined in claim 13, further comprising a step of recording order attribute data such as a customer name and a customer address on said removable recording medium.